

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor
Steven K. Reviczky, Commissioner
Steve Jensen, Editor



Connecticut Department of Agriculture
Dec. 1, 2015



Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky (center) with several generations of the Stearns family after the announcement that they have permanently preserved 82 acres of their farm for agricultural use only and are seeking to protect another 650 acres.

MOUNTAIN DAIRY IN MANSFIELD TAKES FIRST STEP TOWARD PRESERVING MORE THAN 700 ACRES OF FARMLAND

More than 82 acres of one of the largest Connecticut dairy farms to produce, process and distribute its own milk has been permanently protected and will be forever available for agricultural production under the state's Farmland Preservation Program.

The 243-year-old Stearns Farm in Mansfield, which sells its products under the Mountain Dairy brand, is also seeking approval to protect another 650 acres of its farm under the program, administered by the Department of Agriculture.

Key partners in the conveyance of the farms' development rights to the state were the USDA/ Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Town of Mansfield.

At an announcement held at the farm last week, Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky said it is an important addition to the program, which has preserved 314 farms and more than 41,500 acres through conveyance of development rights to the state.

Mountain Dairy products can be found in stores, restaurants and schools throughout eastern Connecticut and the

greater Hartford area.

"Mountain Dairy and the Stearns family have stood apart as a family-owned enterprise that has contributed greatly to the local community and the regional economy," Reviczky said.

Ten generations of the Stearns family have been actively involved in the farm, known as a "producer-handler" operation because it raises hay and corn to feed its dairy cows, processes its own milk and delivers it to their customers.

Reviczky recalled how Mountain Dairy made daily deliveries to his parent's general store in Ashford when he was a boy, and how he sometimes would get a ride to school on one of the trucks when he missed the bus.

"When everybody else was getting off the school bus, I was getting off the milk truck with a chocolate milk in hand," he said. "I was the coolest kid in school."

The Stearns family has farmed the land since 1772, when Boaz and Lydia Stearns settled on the farm and raised mulberries for the region's silk industry.

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LANCASTER, PA., LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg. Dressing

SLAUGHTER COWS:	LOW	HIGH
breakers 75-80% lean	72.00	79.00
boners 80-85% lean	70.00	78.00
lean 88-90% lean	65.00	74.00
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
HiCh/Prm 2-3	125.50	130.50
Ch2-3	121.00	126.00
Sel2-3	115.00	120.00
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS		
HiCh/Prm 2-3	n/a	n/a
Ch2-3	104.00	114.50
Sel2-3	n/a	n/a
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
HiCh/Prm 2-3	123.00	125.50
Ch 2-3	117.00	122.00
Sel 2-3	n/a	n/a
CALVES Graded bull		
No 1 85-122 lbs	270.00	282.00
No 2 84-114 lbs	250.00	262.00
No 3 94-111 lbs	217.00	245.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA

SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn

Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3

110-130 lbs	195.00	215.00
130-150 lbs	182.00	212.00
150-200 lbs	168.00	187.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3		
120-160 lbs	80.00	115.00
160-200 lbs	87.00	120.00
200-300 lbs	77.00	95.00
BUCKS		
160-200 lbs	90.00	107.00
200-250 lbs	78.00	90.00
250-300 lbs	85.00	100.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Select 1, by head, est.		
40-50 lbs	125.00	132.00
50-60 lbs	155.00	160.00
60-80 lbs	180.00	220.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1, by head, est.		
80-130 lbs	180.00	220.00
130-180 lbs	220.00	260.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Select 1		
150-200 lbs	355.00	360.00
SLAUGHTER WETHERS: sel 1, by head		
100-150 lbs	345.00	360.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA., HOG AUCTION

All prices per cwt.

52-56	200-300 lbs	47.00	51.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	35.00	38.00
	300-400 lbs	26.00	30.00
Sows 1-3	300-500 lbs	30.00	37.00
	500-800 lbs	32.00	36.00
Boars	300-700 lbs	6.00	6.00

HAY - LANCASTER, PA

Small squares, each

ALFALFA Supreme	420.00	420.00
Premium	200.00	260.00
Good	n/a	n/a
GRASS HAYS Premium	325.00	390.00
Good	260.00	310.00
ALFALFA/GRASS Supreme	390.00	425.00

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices

NEW ENGLAND GROWN

	LOW	HIGH
APPLES, CORTLAND, USFCY, BU	15.00	15.00
APPLES, CRTLND, LOOSE, BU	12.00	12.00
APPLES, EMPIRE, 120/140, #1, BU	18.00	18.00
APPLES, FUJI, NG, 113, BU	15.00	15.00
APPLES, GALA, FCY, BU	15.00	15.00
APPLES, GLDN DEL, NG, BU	15.00	15.00
APPLES, HNYCRSP, XFCY, 80, 88	58.00	58.00
APPLES, HONYCRSP, NG, BU	28.00	30.00
APPLES, MACS, FNCY, 12-3LB	15.00	16.00
APPLES, MAC, FCY, 80, BU	18.00	18.00
APPLES, MAC, FCY, 88, BU	18.00	18.00
APPLES, MAC, 120, FCY, BU	18.00	18.00
APPLES, MAC, 140, FCY, BU	18.00	18.00
APPLES, MACS, #1, 120	17.00	18.00
APPLES, MACS, #1, 140	17.00	18.00
APPLES, MACS, NG, BU	12.00	12.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	15.00
BRUSSELS SPROUTS, 25 LBS	38.00	38.00
CIDER, APPLE, 4-1 GAL	18.00	18.00
CIDER, APPLE, 9-1/2 GALLON	20.00	22.00
CORN, ORN, BLUE, 20-3S	28.00	30.00
CORN, ORN, STRAWB, 20-3S	28.00	30.00
CRANBERRIES, 24-12 OZ	29.00	30.00
GOURDS, 1/2 BU	28.00	32.00
PARSNIPS, MED, 20 LBS	19.00	23.00
PARSNIPS, MED, 18-1 LB	18.00	22.00
POPCORN, 20-3S	28.00	30.00
POTATO, FINGERLING, 20 LB	20.00	20.00
POTATO, RNDWHT, #1, 10-5LB	12.00	12.00
POTATO, RNDRED, SZ A, 50 LBS	10.00	11.00
POTATO, YLLW, #1, SZ A, 50LB	14.00	14.00
POTATO, YLLW, #1, CHEF, 50LB	14.00	14.00
POTATO, RUSSET, #1, 50 LBS	14.00	14.00
PUMPKINS, PIE, 1-1/9	11.00	15.00
PUMPKIN, PIE, 36" BIN	190.00	230.00
RUTABAGAS, 50 LBS	12.00	13.00
SQUASH, BUTTERNUT, 1-1/9	12.00	14.00
SQUASH, DELICATA, 1/2 BU	9.00	10.00
SQUASH, SPAGHETTI, 1-1/9	16.00	18.00
STRAW BALES, STANDARD	7.50	8.00
TOMATO, GHSE, CHERRY, 5LB	12.00	14.00
TOMATO, GHSE, LOOSE, 25LB	18.00	20.00
TOMATO, GHSE, ONVINE, 11LB	14.50	15.00
TOMATO, HEIRLM, GHSE, 10LBS	24.00	28.00
TURNIPS, PURPLE TOPS, 25LBS	12.00	15.00
TURNIPS, WHITE CAPE, 1-1/9	17.00	18.00

SHIPPED IN

MUSHROOM, ENOKI, PA, 12-3.5OZ	18.00	19.00
MUSHROOM, OYSTER, PA, 3 LBS	13.00	13.25
MUSHROOM, SHITAKE, PA, 3LB	14.00	15.00
ONIONS, YELLOW, NY, 50 LBS	12.00	13.00
ONIONS, YELLOW, NY, 20-2LB	12.00	13.00
ONIONS, RED, NY, 25 LBS	13.00	17.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION Middlefield, CT, November 30, 2015

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	45.00	55.00
61-75 lbs.	110.00	175.00
76-90 lbs.	185.00	200.00
91-105 lbs.	205.00	210.00
106 lbs. & up	215.00	220.00
Farm Calves	225.00	230.00
Starter Calves	48.00	50.00
Veal Calves	150.00	175.00
Open Heifers	150.00	155.00
Beef Heifers	70.00	96.00
Feeder Steers	100.00	130.00
Beef Steers	85.00	126.00
Stock Bulls	70.00	90.00
Beef Bulls	75.00	130.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	n/a	n/a
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Feeder Pigs	25.00	45.00
Sheep	50.00	145.00
Lambs	n/a	n/a
Goats each	90.00	290.00
Kid Goats	55.00	140.00
Canners	up to	73.00
Cutters	74.00	79.00
Utility Grade Cows	80.00	85.00
Rabbits each	4.00	17.00
Chickens each	3.00	20.00
Ducks each	8.00	20.00

NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA

Per doz. Grade A and Grade A white in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	2.15	2.29
LARGE	2.09	2.23
MEDIUM	1.49	1.62

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

Per doz. Grade A brown in carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	2.63	2.73
LARGE	2.56	2.66
MEDIUM	1.72	1.84
SMALL	1.03	1.13

USDA AVG REGIONAL SHELL EGGS

USDA GRADE A and Grade A, white eggs, cents per doz

Northeast		
Ex Large		218.50
Large		215.00
Medium		167.00
Southeast		
Ex Large		227.50
Large		225.00
Medium		164.00
Midwest		
Ex Large		218.50
Large		216.50
Medium		161.50
South Central		
Ex Large		230.50
Large		228.50
Medium		165.50
Combined Regional		
Ex Large		224.07
Large		221.72

FOR SALE

1-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now Connecticut's first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheep breeders, organic farmers and all others, call us for all your insurance needs. 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com

3-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. Sonpal's Power Fence 860-491-2290.

4-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm 860-376-2227.

5-R. Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Program, endorsed by the CT Farm Bureau, save up to 23% on your farm insurance and get better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call Marci today at 203-444-6553.

8-R. CT non-GMO grain and corn. Hay and straw. Pleasant View Farms. Louis. 860-803-0675.

125-R. 20 ton tag along Custom trailer. Purchased new in 2000. Original owner/operator. Excellent condition. \$8,900 Lebanon. 860-642-4292.

126-R. Stafford. Priced reduced! Upscale gentleman's farm on 3+ acres. Features a 2BR, 2 bath home in move-in condition. Large barn with a/c, office, full bath and 2 car garage. Also, cabin with screened in porch. \$269,900.00. Call Clint Charter, Wallace & Tetreault Realty, 860-558-3908.

128-R. For Sale: Branford 2+ acres land, barns and 3 bedroom farmhouse. Previously farmed by 3 generations of the same family. Had operated a fruit/vegetable stand. Nut trees on property include black walnut, filbert (hazelnuts), heart nuts. Large barn with hayloft & stand above with room for heavy equipment/truck and chicken barn/stall below. Smaller barn/shed for pullets. Previous animals include chickens, turkeys, horse, goat. Zoned for small animals or 2 large. Situated on a tidal marsh with natural beauty. Close to town and commuter rail, photos available upon request. Contact Stephanie F. Dorman at 203-488-1641, Ext. 205.

130-R. 115-R. John Deere 2305, 4WD utility tractor. Many attachments: bucket, backhoe, front and rear plows, 3ph, weight box, landscape rake, snow blower. Mint condition. \$19,500.00 or Best Offer. Call 203-988-6815.

131-R. For sale: Vaughan vertical wet-well recirculating Chopper Pump; type used for manure pit. Best offer. Call Steve S. 860-286-9999 X-134.

133-R. 72X30x12 (high) foot hi-tunnel for sale. Lots of extra parts. 203-387-3055.

134-R. Save time, labor, money. GLEASON Soil Mixer, 1 yard, with cell, flat pot filler, with agitator, brushes, roller, with elevator and soil return. Very good condition. Strong as an army tank with unbelievable number of adjustments. Four separate units. Offered at one-third value, \$12,000.00, O.B.O. Wheeler Farm, 171 Bartlett Street, Portland, CT 06480. Tel. 860-342-2374, email: bebelarson1@gmail.com

WANTED

127-R. Standing timber wanted. Hardwood/Softwood. Top prices paid. Licensed and insured. 10 acre minimum. 860-798-4039.

132-R. Wanted: Quick detach forks and complete backhoe assembly for a JD 790 tractor. 860-663-1769, 5pm-9pm.

MISCELLANEOUS

6-R. Farm/Land specializing in land, farms, and all types of Real Estate. Established Broker with a lifetime of agricultural experience and 40 years of finance. Representing both Buyers and Sellers. Call Clint Charter of Wallace-Tustin Realty (860) 644-5667.

**FDA MEETING ON FSMA FINAL RULES
DEC. 14 IN BRATTLEBORO**

Join FDA subject matter experts for an overview of three final Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Rules Dec. 14 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Latchis Theatre, 50 Main St., Brattleboro, Vermont.

Hosted by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, the meeting will cover rules regarding produce safety, preventive controls for human food, and preventive controls for animal food.

More information on this free event is available at: go.usa.gov/3SV3F

**MOUNTAIN DAIRY IN MANSFIELD TAKES FIRST
STEP TOWARD PRESERVING MORE THAN 700
ACRES OF FARMLAND**

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The family eventually switched to the milk business and began using the name Mountain Dairy in 1871, when Jared Stearns started selling milk to his neighbors and friends.

Conveying the farm's development rights to the state will help ensure that it remains 100-percent family owned and viable for future generations, said Josh Stearns, a member of the family's tenth generation and one of seven Stearns currently working the land.

"The Stearns family is very honored to preserve the land and we want to thank the Department of Agriculture and the State of Connecticut for making this possible so we can continue farming for another 200 years," he said, standing with several generations of Stearns in front of one of their classic delivery trucks.

The farm is the third preserved in Mansfield through the Farmland Preservation Program, which has protected a total of more than 4,400 acres of farmland in Tolland County.

It is also the fourth farm across the state protected in recent months through a partnership between the state Dept. of Agriculture and USDA/NRCS.

"The partnership between NRCS and the Connecticut Department of Agriculture is beginning to be like a well-oiled machine," said NRCS State Conservationist Thomas L. Morgart. "These easements not only benefit the landowner, they're advantageous to residents by ensuring environmental quality, historic preservation, wildlife habitat, and protecting open space."

U.S. Representative Joe Courtney (CT-2), whose district includes Mansfield, said: "I have had the pleasure of working with Mountain Dairy in the past, along with a number of dairy farms that form the fabric of our region during my service on the House Agriculture Committee and having launched the Congressional Dairy Farmers Caucus. I strongly endorse Mountain Dairy's inclusion in the state's Farmland Preservation Program, and I am heartened that this unique asset will be protected for generations to come."

State Sen. Mae Flexer of Killingly said protection of the farm was another example of the state being a leader in farmland preservation.

"One of the reasons we live here in northeast Connecticut is to enjoy beautiful views like this and to drink delicious milk like Mountain Dairy milk," she said.

State Representative Gregory Haddad of Mansfield recalled how his family got twice-a-week home deliveries from the dairy when he was growing up.

"They are a historic gem in Eastern Connecticut and also an important part of our small business and agricultural community," Haddad said. "I am so pleased that the Department of Agriculture and Mountain Dairy are able to partner together to ensure that the farm can continue running for years to come."

Matt Hart, Mansfield's Town Manager, said Mountain Dairy is the oldest farm in town and is a key part of the town's identity.

"The community values the scenic views of the farm and benefits from Mountain Dairy's local milk and other products," Hart said. "We look forward to working with Mountain Dairy to help their business thrive."



Above: a view of the event showing some of the fields where corn and hay are grown to feed Mountain Dairy's herd of milking cows.

Far right: Adele, a part Holstein, part White Galloway calf born at the farm on Thanksgiving.



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